- Development of milk replacer for economic raising of calves and to save milk for human consumption.

- Development of 'Degcure' for curing Degnala disease.

- Development of suitable forage crop rotations to ensure supply of green fodder round the year.

- Urea molasses block lick developed for use as a food source of nitrogen and minerals to cattle during scarcity period.

- Protocol for induction of lactation in indigenous cows and buffaloes developed.

- Procedures developed and standardised for estrus syncbronisation and supervoulation using different hormone combinations in cattle and buffaloes.

- Protocol for embryo transfer technolgoy standardised for cattle and buffalo and being currenly used under field conditions.

- Procedures for in vitro maturation and in vitro fertilization of buffalo oocyles developed.

- A quick three hour quantitative RIA test for progeslerone in milk and plasma developed.

- EIA for progesterone determination in milk and blood plasma developed.

[English]

Monitoring of Ecological Problems

4802. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to gradually declining wildlife in the country and also due to an unchecked growth in cattle population eating away our grass land and depleting earth's green cover there is a serious threat to the ecological balance and damage of flora and fauna;

(b) whether there is any regular Government agency which carries on a systematic monitoring of such ecological problems;

(c) is so, the work done by it during the last three years; and

(d) if not, the steps Government propose to take for the preservation of nature-healthy environment?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Biotic interference in the forest areas, including grazing by cattle, does cause damage to the fauna and flora and loss of green cover.

(b) and (c) The Forest Survey of India (FSI), under this Ministry assesses the change in forest cover of the country every two years using satellite data and data from extensive field surveys. The fifth such assessment of forest cover has been published as "The State of Forest Report 1995". The assessment also includes an analysis of the reasons for the change in forest cover, the extent of damage due to fire and grazing, and the regeneration status of the forest areas.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Distribution of Cotton Seeds

4803. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of cotton seeds distributed to farmers in the tribal, backward and rural areas of Gujarat during the last three years, till date;

(b) the details of the variety of cotton seeds being cultivated in the State;

(c) the total production of cotton in the State during the said period; and

(d) the assistance/techniques to be provided to Gujarat by the Union Government for increasing the production of cotton?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The total quantity of cotton seed distributed to needy farmers of tribal as well as non-tribal areas of Gujarat State during the last three years is as under:

Quantity in Quintals

Year	Total
1994-95	94,451
1995-96	96,281
1996-97	94,154

(b) The details of varieties of cotton seeds being cultivated in the State are as under :

(i) Digvijay (ii) V-797 (iii) Sanjya (iv) Deviraj (v) Gujcot-10 (vi) Gujcot-11 (vii) Gujcot-12 (viii) Gujcot-13 (ix) Gujcot-15 (x) Gujcot-16 (xi) Gujcot-17 (xii) Hy-4 (xiii) Hy-6 (xiv) Hy-8 (xv) Hy-9 (xvi) Hy-10 (xvii) LRA-5166 (xviii) DCH-32 (xix) Varalaxmi (xx) NHH-44, etc.

(c) The total production of cotton in the State during the said period is as under:-

Year	Total Production in lakh bales (each bale is 170 Kgs)
1994-95	22.69
1995-96	22.02
1996-97	30.00 (likely)

(d) To increase productivity and production of cotton in the State, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Intensive Cotton Development Programme" has been implemented.

The assistance provided by the Govt. of India to the State under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Intensive Cotton Development Programme" from 1994-95 to 1996-97 is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Amount
1994-95	11.65
1995-96	59.50
1996-97	53.00

[English]

Procurement and Import of Sugar

4804. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar procured during the current season under the levy system for distribution through the Public Distribution System;

(b) the steps taken to ensure the availability of sugar for the PDS from indigenous production; and

(c) the reasons for importing sugar by the STC and MMTC despite optimistic domestic production estimates?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Under the policy of partial control, 40% of the sugar produced by the sugar factories except from the sugar factories under incentive scheme is required to be given as levy for distribution through the Public Distribution System (PDS). During the current 1996-97 sugar season 36,47,924.5 M.Ts has been released for distribution through the PDS upto June, 1997. The Government would ensure the availability of sugar for distribution through PDS.

(c) No sugar has been imported by the STC/MMTC during the current season.

Street Children

4805. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the American human rights body has exposed the brutality of police on the street children titled Police abuse and killing of street children in India in its Human Rights watch;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The Human Rights Watch/Asia brought out a report titles: "Police Abuse and Killing of Street Children in India". The report mainly focuses on alleged police abuse, torture and extortion, including illegal detention in respect of street children and the loopholes in the laws in this context. Quoting the 1991 census, the report states there are around 18 million children, living or working on the streets of urban India. It is alleged that the police illegally detains, beats and extorts money from the children, without the fear of scrutiny by the judiciary. It has also, *inter alia*, referred to the conditions and functioning of observation, Remand and juvenile Homes and about inadequacies in the implementation of the Provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, by the enforcement authorities, as also in the substantive provisions of the Act. The report also mentions the steps taken by the Government in respect of police training and sensitisation with reference to the problems faced by the street children.

2. The Government is committed to better quality of life and protection of human rights for all, specially for the weaker and vulnerable sections of the society. For this, the Government has already brought in a number of institutional and legislative reforms. There is a continuous process of revision in the existing institutional and legislative frame work. It is considering amendments to various provisios in Cr.P.C. like section 53, 54, 176 and 197 in order to make them more human.

3. A number of innovative, non-institutional schemes have been developed for the benefit of street children. Financial grants are being sanctioned to support and strengthen voluntary organisations engaged in the welfare and development of these children, in order to provide integrated and community based services to them. Stress is given to making available basic health service, providing nutritional support, offering facilities for literacy, integration of street children with their families or their placement in a family setting and protecting these children against all forms of abuse and exploitation.